

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
HRI # _____
Trinomial _____
NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 2 Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) N-219

P1. Other Identifier: U.S. Army Aviation Research and Technology, Aeroflight Dynamics Directorate

***P2. Location:** ☒ Not for Publication ☐ Unrestricted

***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** San Francisco North, Calif.

Date: 1995

***a. County** Santa Clara

***c. Address** 325 Durand Road

City Moffett Field

Zip 94035

***e. Other Locational Data:**

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)

Building N-219 is a two-story concrete rectangular building located on Durand Road. It has a concrete foundation, exposed concrete walls, and a flat roof. The building's massing is simple and ornamental detail is minimal. This building features simple, flat, horizontal concrete bands that run across each façade. The bands articulate the first and second floors and give a definite horizontality to the building. The building has three over three metal awning windows that are sandwiched between the concrete bands. These windows appear in sets of two except at the entrance where they are grouped in sets of three. Each set of windows is separated by concrete piers with grooves that align with the window mullions. The building's main entry is emphasized with a simple concrete awning with rounded corners. The entry doors are aluminum storefront and are not original to the building. The concrete surround at the entry doors appears to have been added at a later date. The building has been retrofitted with steel and concrete stairs on the east and west sides of the building. Also at the east and west elevations, the windows at the center bays have been removed and infilled with exit doors with painted concrete surrounds. A steel cage ladder providing roof access is located on the east side. The building has been utilized for office space and is 15,100 sq. ft. It appears to be in fair condition.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** (list attributes and codes) HP6 – 1-3 story Commercial Building; (HP39) - Research and Development Facility

***P4. Resources Present:** ☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other

P5a. Photo



P5b. Photo: (view and date)

View of south and west façades,
(8/12/05)

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** 1940

***P7. Owner and Address:**
United States of America as
represented by National Aeronautics
and Space Administration (NASA)

***P8. Recorded by:**
Page & Turnbull, Inc.
724 Pine Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

***P9. Date Recorded:** 08/12/05

***P10. Survey Type:**
Reconnaissance

***P11. Report Citation:** Lori Neff, *Department of Parks and Recreation – Historic Resources Inventory “Bldg. N219, U.S. Army Aviation Research and Technology,”* (1995).

***Attachments:** ☐ None ☐ Location Map ☐ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record
☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list)

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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*NRHP Status Code 5D3

*Resource Name or # N-219

- B1. Historic name: Electrical Services Building
B2. Common name: U.S. Army Aviation Research and Technology
B3. Original Use: Electrical substation and office B4. Present use: Office and research facility

*B5. **Architectural Style:** Moderne with 20th-Century Industrial influences

*B6. **Construction History:** (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

1941 – Date of Construction; 1960s – Interior alterations; 1983 – Exterior and interior alterations

*B7. **Moved?** ☒No ☐Yes ☐Unknown **Date:** _____ **Original Location:** _____

*B8. **Related Features:**

Significant architectural features include the concrete exterior, steel-sash windows, and concrete entry canopy.

B9a. Architect: National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) Engineers

b. Builder:

*B10. **Significance:** Theme Post-War Science and Space Exploration Area NASA Ames Research Center

Period of Significance 1940-1958 Property Type Administration Building Applicable Criteria 1 & 3

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity)

Originally built for Electrical Services, Building N-219 is currently used as a research support facility for the U.S. Army Aviation Research and Technology Department. This building is one of several support buildings built between 1940 and 1958. Founded in 1939, the Ames Research Center was the second aeronautic research facility built for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA). This research center was vital in the development of the field of aeronautical research and science. Along with new research facilities, such as wind tunnels and testing facilities, several support buildings were constructed for the staff, including offices, machine shops, manufacturing facilities, and laboratories. In the early development of the base, electricity was a particularly crucial problem and was one of the main reasons why this site was selected. At this time, these research and support buildings were rendered in an architectural vocabulary, which allowed for a variety of uses and a cohesive campus setting. These buildings were most often, one and two stories in height with concrete structural systems, concrete exteriors (with scored concrete detailing), and steel or wood-sash awning or hopper windows. They expressed Moderne architectural details with their scored exteriors, tripartite concrete panels (located between windows and doors), concrete entry canopies, and rectilinear configurations. Additionally, these buildings exhibited influences of 20th-Century Industrial architecture with their smooth, concrete exteriors and steel-sash awning and hopper windows. Today, the exterior of this building retains more historical significance than the interior, which has been altered to accommodate office space. Despite these alterations, Building N-219 still possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) (HP6) -- Office Building; (HP39) -- Research and Development Facility

*B12. **References:**

- Lori Neff, *Department of Parks and Recreation – Historic Resources Inventory “Bldg. N219, U.S. Army Aviation Research and Technology,”* (1995).
- Edwin Hartman, *Adventures in Research: A History of Ames Research Center, 1940 – 1965* (NASA SP-4302, 1970).
- Elizabeth A. Muenger, *Searching the Horizon: A History of Ames Research Center, 1940 – 1976* (NASA SP-4304, 1985).
- Glenn Burgos, *Atmosphere of Freedom: Sixty Years at the NASA Ames Research Center* (NASA SP-4314, 2000).

B13. Remarks:

In 1995, Section 110 survey documentation of the NASA Ames Research Center was submitted to the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

*B14. **Evaluator:** Rich Sucre, Page & Turnbull, Inc.
724 Pine Street, San Francisco, CA 94108

*Date of Evaluation: 10/18/2005

(This space reserved for official comments.)

Sketch Map

